

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 SS-15 HEW-04
L-03 HA-05 IGA-02 /106 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9033
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0234

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR PORG LA (UNFDAC)
SUBJECT: WORK PLAN FOR UNFDAC/LPDR 1977 AGREEMENT

REF: A STATE 034719 NOTAL, B STATE 043009, C VIENTIANE
0174 NOTAL

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

SUMMARY: AN FAO/ILO TEAM WHICH VISITED THE LPDR IN LATE
DECEMBER HAS PREPARED A WORK PLAN FOR UNFDAC'S NARC/LAO
380-382 PROJECT AS OUTLINED IN THE UNFDAC/LPDR AGREE-
MENT. THE WORK PLAN NOTES THAT SINCE NO DECISION "AT
THE TOP LEVEL" HAD BEEN TAKEN ON SELECTION OF A SITE
FOR THE "CROP SUBSTITUTION" PROJECT, THE WORK PLAN
WOULD ONLY ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE "KM 62" PROJECT. THIS
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PROJECT CALLS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF \$165,000 TO ASSIST
IN THE REHABILITATION OF SIXTY REFORMED DRUG ADDICTS.
THE PLAN NOTES THE POSSIBILITY OF GROWING A VARIETY OF
CROPS AT "KM 62" DESPITE THE APPARENTLY LOW-FERTILITY
SOIL. THE PLAN ALSO NOTES POTENTIAL FOR SOME RAISING
OF LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTION OF SOME INDUSTRIAL CROPS.
THE PLAN ALSO PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES AND

ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES AND ARTISAN CENTERS. THE PLAN CALLS FOR ASSIGNMENT OF ONE INTERNATIONAL STAFFER, AN AGRONOMIST WHO WOULD TRAIN AND ADVISE LAO AND PREPARE REPORTS OVER ONE YEAR, DURING WHICH TIME VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. THE PLAN FORESEES THE NEED FOR EXPENDITURE OF \$150,000 TO \$200, ADDITIONAL FUNDS OVER THE FIVE YEAR DURATION OF THE PROJECT.

THE EMBASSY RAISES IN COMMENT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER FUNDING FOR THE KM 62 PROJECT SHOULD PROCEED IN LIGHT OF THE LPDR REFUSAL TO PROPOSE A "CROP SUBSTITUTION" SITE AND IN LIGHT OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "CROP SUBSTITUTION" PROJECT AND "KM 62" BE SIMULTANEOUS. END SUMMARY. END CONFIDENTIAL.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. ALEXANDRE ARNAUD, DIRECTOR OF THE UNFDAC OFFICE IN VIENTIANE, HAS PROVIDED US WITH A COPY OF THE WORK PLAN FOR UNFDAC PROJECT "NARC/LAO 380-382." THE WORK PLAN, DATED JANUARY 6, 1978, WAS PREPARED BY AN FAO/ILO TEAM WHICH VISITED VIENTIANE DECEMBER 16 TO DECEMBER 26 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. A. BOZZINI, AGP DIVISION, FAO ROME.

2. THE PLAN DEFINES THE "TEARMS OF REFERENCE" AS:
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1) VISITS TO BOTH THE "CROP SUBSTITUTION" AND KM 62 PROJECT SITES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARATION OF PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON HYDROLOGY, CLIMATE, AND SOIL CONDITIONS AT THE SITES; 2) A REVIEW OF EXISTING AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AT THE SITES WITH ADVICE REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW CROPS, ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN RESOURCES; 3) EVALUATION OF LPDR INPUTS, PLANS FOR COOPERATION WITH OTHER PROJECTS, AND ADVICE ON THE PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES; AND 4) PREPARATION OF WORK PLANS FOR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES, FIRST PHASE BUDGETING, AND ADVICE ON LONG TERM PLANNING.

3. THE PLAN NOTES THAT "FROM PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (I.E., INTERIOR), IT WAS EVIDENTLY IMPOSSIBLE TO VISIT THE 'CROP SUBSTITUTION' SITE, SINCE NO DECISION AT TOP LEVEL HAD BEEN TAKEN ON ITS SELECTION. THEREFORE, THE WORK PLAN DEALS IN DEPTH ONLY WITH THE KM 62 PROJECT."

4. ACCORDING TO THE PLAN, THE PROJECT IS FOR FIVE YEARS, THOUGH THE WORK PLAN WAS PREPARED FOR ONLY THE

FIRST YEAR. THE PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO "REHABILITATE TO NORMAL LIFE AND TO AGRICULTURAL AND ARTISAN ACTIVITIES SIXTY PEOPLE (AND POSSIBLY THEIR FAMILIES) WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY DRUG ADDICTED."

5. THE PLAN NOTES THAT CONSTRUCTION OF A VILLAGE AT THE KM 62 SITE WAS BEGUN IN JULY 1976 AND THAT THERE ARE NOW TWELVE PROVISIONAL DWELLINGS, OTHER OUTBUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FIVE LAKES COVERING APPROXIMATELY 7-10 HECTARES. IN ADDITION, SOME LAND HAS BEEN CLEARED AND LEVELED AT THE 600 HECTARE SITE THAT IS EXPECTED TO BE EXPANDED EVENTUALLY TO 6,000 HECTARES.

6. THE SOIL AT THE SITE IS DESCRIBED AS POOR IN FERTI-
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LITY, BUT IT IS NOTED THAT SOIL STRUCTURE AND FERTILITY REQUIRES FURTHER STUDY. THE PLAN NOTES THE NEED FOR PASTURE AND GRAIN PRODUCTION IMPROVEMENT TO MEET THE PROJECT'S DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE. VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IS ENCOURAGED BY VIRTUE OF EASY ACCESS TO VIENTIANE MARKETS. IN ADDITION TO RICE, VEGETABLES, AND PASTURELAND CROPS, THE PLAN CALLS FOR PLANTING OF CASTOR BEAN AND TOBACCO.

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7. THE PLAN FORESEES DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK RAISING TO INCLUDE SWINE, POULTRY, SMALL RUMINANTS (TO BE INTRODUCED GRADUALLY), AND LARGE ANIMALS (ONCE PASTURE-LAND HAS BEEN DEVELOPED.) AQUA-CULTURE IS DESCRIBED AS

A "MAJOR THRUST" OF THE PROJECT.

8. THE PLAN URGES THAT THE TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF THE MEKONG COMMITTEE STAFF BE TAPPED TO PROMOTE FISHERY ACTIVITY AND THAT AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERT SHOULD BE "PROVIDED UNDER THE WORK PLAN." THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REPORTEDLY AGREES TO PROVIDE COUNTERPARTS. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE AN AGRONOMIST BACKGROUND WITH SPECIALIZATION IN CROP AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND FISHERIES. THE EXPERT IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE IN-SERVICE TRAINING TO THE COUNTERPARTS AND
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TO THE LOCAL FARMERS.

9. THE PROJECT IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR THREE-MONTH PERIODS: (A) THE FIRST PERIOD IS INTENDED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PRELIMINARY PLANS OF THE SITE, CREATION OF A SITE MAP ALLOCATING THE LAND FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES, AND THE ORDERING OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT. TENTATIVE EQUIPMENT NEEDS ARE TO BE LISTED FOR THE SUBSEQUENT PERIOD. (B) THE SECOND PERIOD WILL SEE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT. SEEDING OF VARIOUS CROPS AND PLANS FOR LIVESTOCK PURCHASES ARE TO BE MADE. A REPORT ALSO IS TO BE PREPARED DETAILING ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROBLEMS, WITH A PROSPECTUS FOR ACTIVITIES OVER THE SUCCEEDING SIX MONTHS. (C) THE THIRD PERIOD IS TO BE THE STUDY OF HARVEST AND STORAGE TECHNIQUES. ARTISAN AND SMALL INDUSTRY ACTIVITY ALSO IS TO BE CONSIDERED. (D) IN THE FINAL QUARTER, A WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT PHASE IS TO BE DRAWN UP AND DISCUSSED WITH THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL. A YEAR-END REPORT ALSO WILL BE PREPARED.

10. FOR THE LONG TERM THE PLAN STATES THAT \$150,000-\$200,000 IS REQUIRED TO "FURTHER VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT." THE PLAN ALSO URGES THAT THE BUDGET CONSIDER ONE OR TWO INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS AND THE PROVISION OF CONSUL-

TANTS FOR TWO TO THREE MONTH PERIODS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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11. COMMENT: THE KM 62 PROJECT WOULD COST OUT AT \$2,750 PER INDIVIDUAL ADDICT, HARDLY AN ATTRACTIVE COST/BENEFIT RATIO. IN REALITY, HOWEVER, KM 62 IS A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WHICH WAS INTENDED TO INDUCE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LPDR TO APPROVE A "CROP SUBSTITUTION" PROJECT ("RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX") IN THE OPIUM PRODUCING LAO HIGHLANDS.

12. REFS A AND B STATED U.S. OPPOSITION TO UNFDAC ACCEPTANCE OF THE "CROP SUBSTITUTION" SITE AT BAN DONE PROPOSED BY THE LPDR (AFTER THE FAO/ILO DELEGATION VISIT) BECAUSE THE SITE DID NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS AS SET DOWN IN THE UNFDAC/LPDR AGREEMENT. THE AGREEMENT ALSO REQUIRED THAT THE TWO PROJECTS BE IMPLEMENTED "SIMULTANEOUSLY" SO AS TO ASSURE THAT THE LPDR WOULD NOT PROCEED WITH THE KM 62 PROJECT WHICH IT FAVORED WHILE STALLING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "CROP SUBSTITUTION" PROJECT WHICH UNFDAC FAVORED.

13. THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT KM 62 FUNDING SHOULD BE HELD UP PENDING LPDR PROPOSAL OF AN ACCEPTABLE "CROP SUBSTITUTION" SITE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LPDR IS PREPARED TO ASSIGN THE "CROP SUBSTITUTION" PROJECT TO LIMBO SO LONG AS FUNDS FOR THE KM 62 PROJECT ARE FORTHCOMING.

14. EMBASSY IS POUCHING COPY OF WORK PLAN TO DEPARTMENT.
ROBERTS

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